

Message

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Sent: 2/11/2022 4:36:46 PM
To: 'Jim Watson' [REDACTED]
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Subject: OPSB Special Meeting & Media Availability - 11 February 2022

OPSB

SPECIAL MEETING

FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2022, 3:00 PM

Deans:

- Highlights the positive results the OPS have done so far
- Says it's not enough
- Here's what we need to hear from the Chief:
 1. How many extra cops have we received from Prov & Feds since Monday's request?
 2. What should we expect this weekend? What is the plan from OPS?

Chief:

- We are limited in what we can share. However, we could discuss more information through an in-camera session.
- We welcome the expanded powers from the new Provincial orders
- We will continue to deploy our surge, force, and contain strategy

QUESTIONS:

King: we hope there are more consequences. What do the new powers allow for the OPS to do?

Chief: we are still waiting to hear about the expansive powers allow for.

Smallwood: smelt first-hand the immense amount of diesel fuel in the air. Confused as to how a 21-year old was able to obtain an injunction in less than a week and how we are struggling to get further injunctions/orders from the Prov courts.

Chief: before these demonstrations appeared, we explored that avenue along with the City's legal counsel. Your question should be directed to them.

Deans: will request a written response from David White

Swaita: the Premier was asked what if the expanded powers do not work. He said he has faith in the police. Given the increased number of protests, do you think this is a small minority of ppl? Will we have enough resources for the ongoing demonstrations?

Chief: I can't accurately say how many people agree with their ideologies. This is a local, national, and international movement. That is why it is one of the most difficult operational situations ever for police. We have negotiated changes to shifts, where necessary.

Johnson: we need to ensure that OPS members work reasonable hours and have enough coverage in all areas of the city. Are the member's tired?

Chief: yes, members are bone tired. Many have suffered and been the victims of violent acts. We've had to order people to go home and sleep. We have a significant health & wellness issue.

CAO Dunker: we have the necessary provisions. Public support from Board members would be encouraging. They've moved from a 12-hour to a 10-hour shift structure.

Meehan: is there any way to keep the surge of demonstrators out of the city? Do you have a plan to mitigate the risks of the planned counter-protest at Lansdowne Park?

Chief: through a multi-jurisdictional call, we have been able to share best practices from other agencies that have been dealing with their own demonstrations. We can't keep out 100% of the people coming into the city.

Meehan: why don't we give the demonstrators a deadline to leave? Is that a consideration?

Chief: we are going after the supply and supports of the demonstrations. No jurisdiction has explored issuing a deadline, neither have we.

Deans: do you have any plans for the "fanning out" of demonstrations to other areas other than DT core?

DC.Bell: we continue to gather and share intel. There was a phenomenon where vehicles drive around the city at a slow pace and we're looking at enforcement options. We've deployed extra resources around vulnerable areas, like schools.

MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Chief says he has an operational meeting at 5:00 PM. Concerned that we cannot have a media availability and an in-camera session.

Hannah from OPSB says that John Steinbachs organized the media availability.

John Steinbachs says as per Council direction we are hosting a media availability.

Deans says we will keep the media availability and in-camera session short.

QUESTIONS

Toronto Star: PM said he didn't accept that the City of Ottawa had exhausted their resources. What is your response?

Chief: we've kept in regular contact with the Chiefs of OPP and RCMP.

CTV Ottawa: have any additional resources arrived since Monday? What happens if we don't get what we need this weekend.

Chief: we do not have a definitive answer. We will continue to use the resources we have.

CTV National:

Global & Mail: any sense of numbers of demonstrators this weekend?

Chief: intel says total number should be in range of last weekend. However, there are more demonstrations occurring in more cities. We're gathering more intel in real time.

CBC Ottawa: people are worried that you don't have enough officers.

Deans: we were very clear about our resource requirements. We do not have the resource requirements right now. I understand the PM is under pressure, but I thought his comments this afternoon were unfair.

Ottawa Citizen: Chair Deans do you have confidence in the OPS executive command?

Deans: yes, I have confidence but we hear that they need more help. My job is to help them get the resources they need.

Le Droit: how does the volatility of the demonstrators impede the work of your officers in doing their job?

Chief: volatility, organization, communication are all reasons why we are in a unique situation - there is no playbook. There is a very capable and sophisticated group of demonstrators. We continue to do our very best.

Radio Canada: you said there might not be a policing solution - do you still think that? Especially what is being said at the federal level.

Chief: my comments were there might not be a policing solution. However, we continue to meet the demonstrators with our police. There are nationwide demonstrations. I remain focused on our city's requirements.

Canadian Press: recent injunction - do you think this will be something helpful?

Sebastien: the City's legal team will provide comments on Monday